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FOIA b3b

DEATH IN THE CIA

that another strange death involving a high CIA official has occurred in the CIA.

Frank G. Wisner, OSS agent in World War II, set up the clandestine operations of the CIA in 1947 and under the cover job-title "Deputy of Plans" was the real boss of the CIA during its first years, according to former CIA official Thomas W. Braden. It was Braden who exposed the fact that he gave Walter Reuther \$50,000 in \$50 bills of CIA money under authority of Wisner, who wanted the money used to prevent the Communists from taking over European labor unions. Wisner was disappointed in the manner that Victor Reuther spent the money.

Wisner, who came from a wealthy Mississippi family, was a militant right-winner. He engineered and financed with CIA money the coup that ousted the pro-Communist Arbenz regime in Guatemala in 1954, with the personal approval of President Eisenhower.

Later, the pro-Soviet garrison in the State Department undermined Wisner. In 1958 he charged that the State Department planted Soviet spies in the CIA. He was confined in a private mental institution and was replaced by Richard M. Bissell, Jr. chief architect of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs fiasco in Cuba. Wisner went to London where he lived several years. He returned to the U.S. five years ago, and in 1965 confided to friends that he was going to write a book telling about how the CIA had been subverted by the Reuther-ADA gang and that "double" agents were operating in the CIA. Shortly thereafter, he reportedly committed suicide. His widow lives in an expensive Colonial mansion in Georgetown and his sons Frank, Jr. and Ellis are now both in Vietnam.

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